

Transit Agency Providers

This chapter presents information on public transit agencies across the State of Montana. These include public and specialized transit providers, excluding social service providers, which are presented in Chapter VII. The information for each agency was taken directly from the Transit Agency Survey developed by the LSC Team. All the data presented for each agency are representative of information provided by the survey respondents or from financial statements submitted by the agency to the state.

Each Montana Transit Provider is listed in alphabetical order according to the agency name. A one-page summary is given for each agency including service characteristics, financial information, transportation conditions, and system inventories. Table VI-1 is a complete list of the transit operators who responded to the Transit Agency Survey for the statewide study. Big Dry Transit in Jordan, Montana did not respond to the survey efforts. Dawson County UTD in Glendive is included in Chapter VII. The agency is now a general public transit provider.

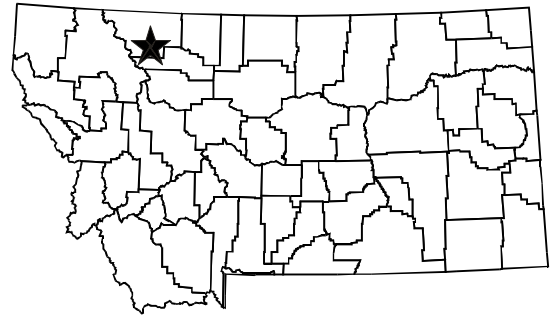
It should be noted the information gathered reflects the 1999 Fiscal Year, unless otherwise noted. Consequently, assessments based on this data will not reflect subsequent actions or events, which may have changed conditions in a given area.

| Table VI-1 Montana Transit Providers | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Blackfeet Transit | Helena Dial-a-Ride |
| Butte-Silver Bow Transit | MET Transit |
| Fergus County COA | Mountain Line |
| Flathead Area IX AOA/Eagle Transit | Powder River Transportation |
| Fort Peck Transportation System | Ravalli County COA |
| Great Falls Transit | Valley County Transit |



Blackfeet Transit, Blackfeet Nation

Address: P.O. Box 866, Browning, MT 59417
Phone: 406-338-5604
Fax: -
Contact: Irene Goss
Email: blfttran@3rivers.net



Profile of System

The Blackfeet Indian Tribal Government is a public agency that operates Blackfeet Transit on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Blackfeet Transit has three vehicles in use Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Of the three vehicles, two are ADA-accessible with wheelchair lifts and two wheelchair stations each. Fares are \$0.75 per ride. Blackfeet Transit has been in operation since 1974.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | NO | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 42,402 | Passenger-Trips | 12,215 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 4,160 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 2 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 1 | | |

Budget

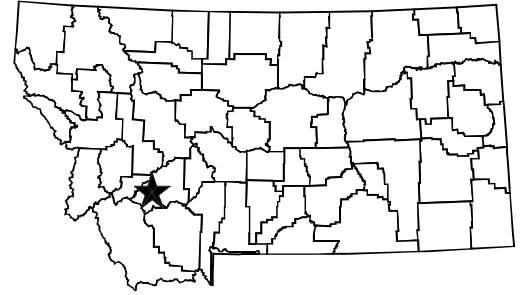
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|--------------------|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$113,150 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$0 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$113,150 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>Tribe</i> |



Butte-Silver Bow Transit System

Address: 126 W. Granite, Butte, MT 59701
Phone: 406-497-6521
Fax: 406-497-6524
Contact: Gary Keeler
Email: -



Profile of System

The Butte-Silver Bow Transit (The Bus) system has been in operation since 1972. The Bus is the largest FTA Section 5311 system in Montana and serves the general public in the Butte urban area with four large transit buses, two paratransit vehicles and one backup unit. The large transit buses work on a fixed-route network throughout the city, while the paratransit vehicles operate on a demand-response basis. Service is available Monday through Friday with an abbreviated schedule on Saturday.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 6 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | NO | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 163,519 | Passenger-Trips | 89,623 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 10,506 | Program-Trips | 6,728 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Total Bus | 7 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 0 | | |

Budget

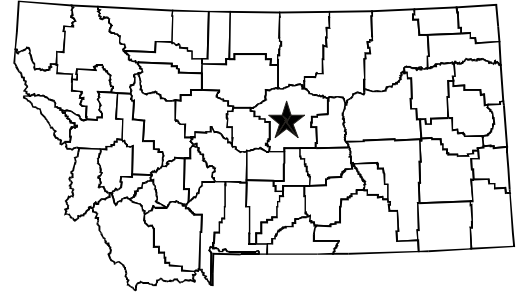
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$464,560 | Total Operating | \$0 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$0 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$464,560 |
| Funding Sources | Fares Advertising FTA 5311 Gas Tax Subsidy |



Fergus County Council on Aging

Address: 307 West Watson, Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 406-538-7486
Fax: 406-538-6441
Contact: Sharon Wickens
Email: fccoa@tein.net



Profile of System

The Central Montana Shuttle (CMS) conducts transit service through the Fergus County Council on Aging, which has been in operation since 1971. CMS has four vehicles in its fleet and four are ADA-accessible with wheelchair stations. Fares to ride CMS are \$1.00 for elderly and disabled and \$4.50 for the general public. Service is provided in Fergus County and portions of neighboring counties and is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 41,712 | Passenger-Trips | 13,035 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 4,150 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 3 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 2 | | |

Budget

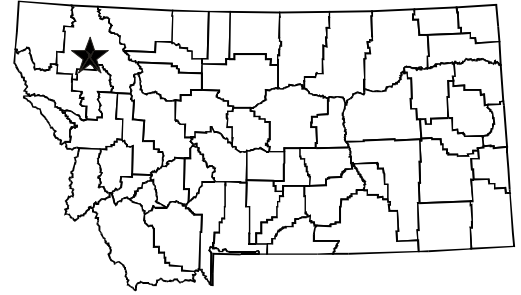
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$85,463 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$15,833 |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Total Revenue | \$87,846 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>Headstart</i> <i>Medicaid</i> <i>Local</i> |



Flathead Area IX Agency on Aging

Address: 723 5th Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 406-758-5728
Fax: -
Contact: Deanna Thielman
Email: fcaoa@digisys.net



Profile of System

Flathead Area IX Agency on Aging is a public agency that operates Eagle Transit in portions of Flathead County, predominantly the Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls area. Eagle Transit is one of the largest general public transit systems in Montana, has been in operation since 1984 and has seven vehicles in its fleet. Of the seven, three are ADA-accessible with wheelchair lifts and a total of seven wheelchair positions. Service is provided Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Fares are \$1.00 for trips in Kalispell and \$3.00 for trips out of Kalispell.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 94,700 | Passenger-Trips | 37,770 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 7,556 | Program-Trips | 9,940 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 7 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 3 | | |

Budget

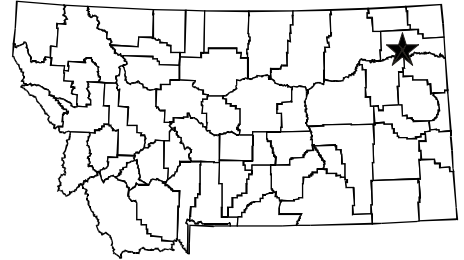
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$236,222 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$366,333 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$262,431 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>United Way</i> <i>Local</i> <i>Medicaid</i> |



Fort Peck Transportation System

Address: P.O. Box 1027, Poplar, MT 59255
Phone: 406-768-3909
Fax: 406-768-5478
Contact: Leta Atkinson
Email: -



Profile of System

The Fort Peck Transportation System (FPTS) has been providing transit to the general public on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation since 1973. FPTS uses a fixed route and demand-response service at a cost of \$0.05 per mile to the general public and free to the elderly and disabled. FPTS has five vehicles in service on the average day. The system is in operation from Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. In 1996, construction was completed on the FPTS Maintenance Facility. The facility was constructed with 80% Federal Transit Administration (Section 5309) funds and 20% Tribal funds and has five bus bays, two maintenance bays, a wash bay, office and conference room.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 133,057 | Passenger-Trips | 54,628 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 5,000 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 7 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 3 | | |

Budget

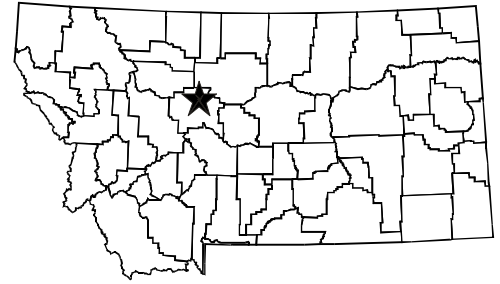
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$269,377 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$41,727 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$256,454 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>Tribe</i> |



Great Falls Transit

Address: 3905 North Star Blvd., Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: 406-727-0382
Fax: 406-727-0386
Contact: B.F. "Chris" Christiaen
Email: gftgm@montana.com



Profile of System

Great Falls Transit is one of the three general public transit systems operating in an urban area (pop. 50,000 or greater) in Montana. Service is available from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM six days a week. All fixed-route buses are accessible.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 6 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 534,893 | Passenger-Trips | 644,915 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 37,410 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Total Bus | 17 | Total Other | 3 |
| Total Van | 1 | | |

Budget

FIXED-ROUTE

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Total Operating | \$773,220 |
| Total Capital | \$235,000 |

DEMAND-RESPONSE

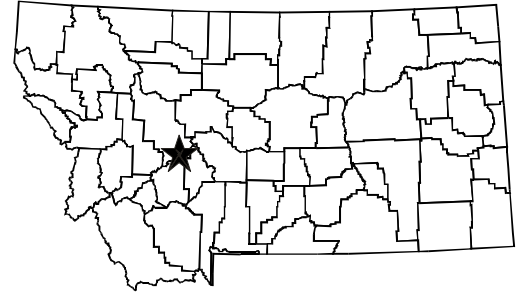
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| Total Operating | \$0 |
| Total Capital | \$0 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$1,654,842 |
| Funding Sources | Fares FTA 5307 Dedicated Tax |



Helena Dial-A-Ride

Address: 630 N. Main, Helena, MT 59604
Phone: 406-447-1580
Fax: -
Contact: Vern Littell
Email: -



Profile of System

Helena Dial-A-Ride (DAR) bus system is a part of the City of Helena local government and has been providing transit to the general public in the Helena city limits since 1979. DAR runs Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with one checkpoint, fixed-route vehicle and two demand-response vehicles. Fares are \$0.85 for the elderly and disabled and \$1.00 for the general public. Rides that deviate off checkpoint routes are \$1.50. DAR has five vehicles in its system.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 107,380 | Passenger-Trips | 39,319 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 13,520 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Total Bus | 5 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 0 | | |

Budget

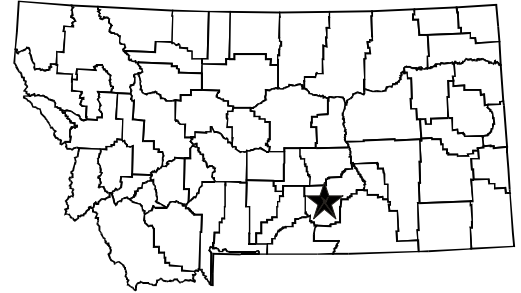
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$283,572 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$50,000 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$283,572 |
| Funding Sources | Fares Advertising FTA 5311 Local |



MET Transit

Address: P.O. Box 1178 Billings, MT 59103-1178
Phone: 406-657-8221
Fax: 406-657-8419
Contact: Ron Wenger
Email: wengerr@ci.billings.mt.us



Profile of System

MET Transit is one of the three general public transit systems operating in an urban area (pop. 50,000 or greater) in Montana. Service is available from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. MET Transit also operates a paratransit system, MET Plus.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 6 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 867,368 | Passenger-Trips | 745,296 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 59,489 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 38 | Total Other | 4 |
| Total Van | 1 | | |

Budget

FIXED-ROUTE

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Total Operating | \$2,355,867 |
| Total Capital | \$240,835 |

DEMAND-RESPONSE

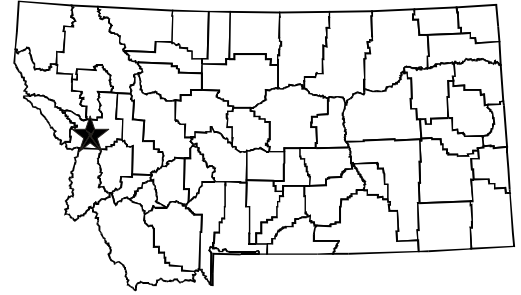
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|-----------------|-----------|
| Total Operating | \$560,527 |
| Total Capital | \$327,065 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$2,916,394 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>Advertising</i> <i>Dedicated Tax</i> <i>FTA 5307, 5310, 5303</i> <i>State</i> <i>Contracts</i> |



Mountain Line

Address: 1221 Shakespeare, Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-543-8386
Fax: 406-543-8387
Contact: Stephen G. Earle
Email: searle@mountainline.com



Profile of System

Mountain Line is one of the three general public transit systems operating in an urban area (pop. 50,000 or greater) in Montana. Service is available from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Mountain Line also provides ADA-accessible vehicles for its passengers.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 6 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 621,166 | Passenger-Trips | 694,708 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 42,322 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 9 | Total Other | 1 |
| Total Van | 23 | | |

Budget

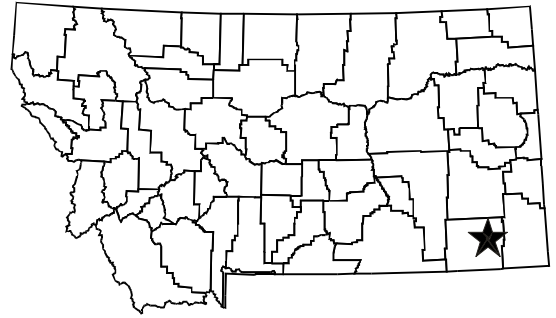
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| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$1,404,337 | Total Operating | \$192,555 |
| Total Capital | \$720,638 | Total Capital | \$36,128 |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Total Revenue | \$3,617,202 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>Advertising</i> <i>Dedicated Tax</i> <i>FTA 5307, 5303, CMAQ</i> <i>Medicaid</i> <i>Title III</i> <i>Local</i> |



Powder River Transportation

Address: P.O. Box 270 Broadus, MT 59317
Phone: 406-436-2361
Fax: 406-436-2151
Contact: Karen D. Amande
Email: Prcocomm@mcn.net



Profile of System

Powder River Transportation (PRT) provides transportation from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the Broadus Area with occasional trips to Billings and Miles City. The system uses a 1991 12-passenger Ford StarTrans.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 1 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 36 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 9,346 | Passenger-Trips | 2,820 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 442 | Program-Trips | - |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 1 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 0 | | |

Budget

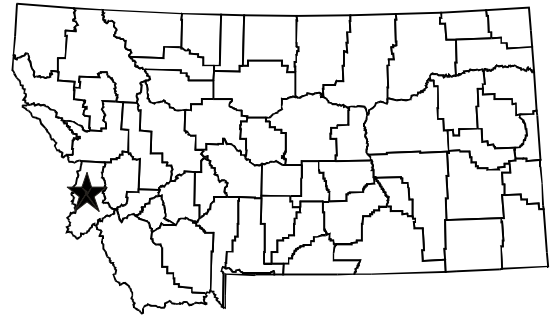
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|--------------------|-----|------------------------|----------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$20,821 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$17,040 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$20,821 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>Local</i> |



Ravalli County Council on Aging

Address: 802 West Main, Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406-363-5690
Fax: 406-363-0401
Contact: Debbie Blank
Email: -



Profile of System

Since 1976, Ravalli County Council on Aging has been providing services for the elderly in the Bitterroot Valley. Part of this service is a demand-response transit system that operates five days a week in Hamilton and portions of Ravalli and Missoula Counties. A 1996 14-passenger Ford Startrans bus, which is ADA-accessible with a wheelchair lift and two wheelchair positions is part of the two vehicle fleet used for transit.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | NO | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 24,475 | Passenger-Trips | 7,069 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 2,800 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 1 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 1 | | |

Budget

FIXED-ROUTE

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Total Operating | \$0 |
| Total Capital | \$0 |

DEMAND-RESPONSE

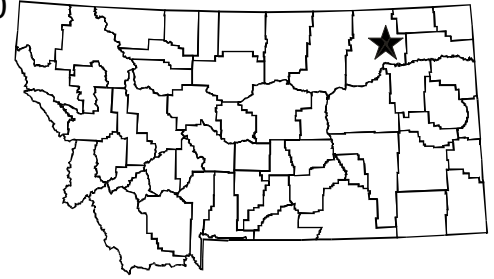
| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Total Operating | \$32,967 |
| Total Capital | \$20,000 |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Total Revenue | \$32,967 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>FTA</i> <i>Local</i> |



Valley County Transit

Address: 501 Court Square, Box 16, Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone: 406-228-8221
Fax: 406-228-9027
Contact: Colleen Pankratz
Email: -



Profile of System

The Valley County Council on Aging operates a general public transit system in Glasgow and portions of Valley County called Valley County Transit. This system runs Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM with weekly trips to Hinsdale, Nashua, Opheim and St. Marie. Fares are \$0.50 in Glasgow for the general public; elderly and disabled ride for \$0.25. Valley County Transit has four vehicles, including a 1998 17-passenger Chevy bus.

Service

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | YES | DAYS per WEEK | 5 |
| DEMAND-RESPONSE | YES | WEEKS per YEAR | 52 |
| ANNUAL | | | |
| Vehicle-Miles | 52,254 | Passenger-Trips | 30,027 |
| Vehicle-Hours | 4,195 | Program-Trips | 0 |

Fleet

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|---|
| Total Bus | 4 | Total Other | 0 |
| Total Van | 0 | | |

Budget

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| FIXED-ROUTE | | DEMAND-RESPONSE | |
| Total Operating | \$0 | Total Operating | \$107,335 |
| Total Capital | \$0 | Total Capital | \$16,959 |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Total Revenue | \$114,225 |
| Funding Sources | <i>Fares</i> <i>State</i> <i>FTA 5311</i> <i>Local</i> |

